

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 03238 272259Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----018830 272305Z /61/43

O R 271455Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5931
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USBERLIN 3238

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCULSIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN (3238 VICE 3258)

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, AKG
SUBJECT: RUMORS OF GDR RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 306481 DTG 232109Z DEC 77, (B) BERLIN 9356
DDG 241333Z DEC 77, (C) USBERLIN 3228 DTG 231144Z DEC 77,
(D) BONN 21332DTG 271228Z DEC 77

1. ANSWERS TO DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS IN PARA TWO OF RETEL A ARE
AS FOLLOWS:

- A. ALL NATIONALITIES OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL CROSS IN WALKING
STATUS (US, BRITISH, FRENCH).
- B. ALL ARE OUT BY MIDNIGHT; US AND FRENCH BY 2400 HOURS, AND
BRITISH BY 2350 HOURS.
- C. SINCE JULY ONE, WE HAVE AVERAGED 21 US MILITARY PERSONNEL PER
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PAGE 02 USBERL 03238 272259Z

WEEK WALKING INTO EAST BERLIN. PERSONNEL CROSS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

2. WE HAVE STUDIED DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT EMBASSY
AND US MISSION BERLIN CONSIDER SENDING VEHICLES THROUGH
CHECKPOINT CHARLIE ON JANUARY ONE AFTER MIDNIGHT, AND
NOTED EMBASSY'S REPOSE THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO DO SO.
ALTHOUGH ER THINK IT WOULD APPROPRIATE FOR THE EMBASSY

TO SEND A CAR (OR CARS), WE WOULD NOT CARE TO DO THE SAME.

3. OUR BASIC PREMISE IS THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO PROBE WHAT MAY BE IMPROBABLE GDR INTENTIONS BY MOUNTING AN ENSEMBLE OF ACTIONS WHICH WILL OVERLY DEPART FROM NORMAL PRACTICE. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBASSY CARS MIGHT UNOBTUSEVELY TRANSIT THE CHECKPOINT IN WHAT WILL DOUBTLESS BE A LARGER FLOW OF DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES AFTER MIDNIGHT JANUARY ONE. WE SEE NO POINT IN SENDING A MISSION VEHICLE ON A CONTRIVED TRIP. OUR OFFICIAL CARS ARE NORMALLY CHAUFFERED BY A UNIFORMED ARMY ENLISTED MAN, AND THE QUESTION OF ACCESS OF ALLIED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL WILL BE SETTLED BY THE FRENCH AND BRITISH FLAG TOURS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR ENTRY AND EXIT BEFORE AND AFTER MIDNIGHT (REFTEL C). IF THE FRENCH OR BRITISH TOURS ARE IMPEDED, USCOB WILL HAVE A STANDBY AMERICAN PATROL WHICH WOULD THEN PRESENT ITSELF IN ORDER TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE EXCLUSION WAS A GENERALIZED STEP.

4. WE CONSIDER THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION TO WHICH WE SHOULD ADDRESS OURSELVES IS WHETHER THE EAST GERMANS ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE A PART-TIME DAILY CLOSURE OF THE CHECKPOINT WHICH WOULD ALSO APPLY TO ALLIED INTRA-CITY MOVEMENT. THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THEY PLAN TO INTRODUCE A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT INSPECTION
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PAGE 03 USBERL 03238 272259Z

TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE BEARER IS VISAED IS A SPEARATE MATTER, AND ONE WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE OF PERMANENT INSTEAD OF INTERMITTENT (I.E., FROM MIDNIGHT TO SIX OR SEVEN A.M.) DURATION. WE ACCORDINGLY DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR MERIT IN TESTING THE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT "FLASH PROCEDURE" IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-MIDNIGHT TIME FRANE, UNLESS IT IS SOMETHING WHICH EMBASSY PERSONNEL CUSTOMARILY PRACTICE.

5. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY BERLIN'S OUTLINE OF A RESPONSE IN CASE OF AN EAST GERMAN CHALLENGE, AND IN ITS RECOMMENDATION THAT A CHALLENGED CAR WOULD NOT REMAIN IN PLACE LONGER THAN THIRTY MINUTES. IF GENERALLY AGREED ON, A STATEMENT SHOULD BE DRAFTED AND COORDINATED WITH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH. PERHPAS EMBASSY BERLIN COULD TABULATE HOW MANY US, UK AND FRENCH EMBASSY VEHICLES MIGHT BE CROSSING AFTER MIDNIGHT ON JANUARY ONE IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS.

6. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771214/aaaaalnw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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